

REMARKS

The following remarks are prepared in response to the Final Office Action of September 24, 2004. Claims 21-27 and 29-43 are to be pending in this application, after entry of this amendment. Claim 28 has been cancelled. Claims 38-43 stand allowed. Applicant appreciates the indication from the Examiner that claims 26-28, 36 and 37 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 21-25 and 30-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ishinaga et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,565, hereinafter *Ishinaga*). Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishinaga*.

Independent Claims 21 and 31

Applicant appreciates the indication from the Examiner that claims 26-28, 36 and 37 contain allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant has amended claims 21 and 31 to include the allowable subject matter recited in claim 28. These amendments place claims 21 and 31 in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 22-27, 29, 30 and 32-37

Claims 22-27, 29, 30 and 32-37 are also allowable because of their dependence on claims 21 and 31, respectively. In addition, claims 22-27, 29, 30 and 32-37 define the printing system with greater particularity and thus further distinguish over *Ishinaga* and the other references of record. For these reasons, as well as others, claims 22-27, 29, 30 and 32-37 should be allowable.

Claims 38-43

Applicant appreciates the indication from the Examiner that claims 38-43 are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be helpful to advance this case, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this document is being deposited on November 24, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 and is addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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